IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) There is no firing practice range for the Bofors Guns in the Sivalik Hills adjoining the Rajaji National Park. There are two firing practice ranges in the Sivalik Hills Area, namely, Raipur Range and Asan Range, which are far away from the Rajaji National Park. Government have received no complaint about firing practice in these two ranges.

(b) Government are not aware of any such international wild life rules.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Sivalik area is reported to be a fragile ecological zone.

Clearance of Sunderbans Delta Project

2753. SHRI RAM NARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sunderbans Delta Project of West Bengal is lying with the Central Government ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay to clear the project ;

(c) when it was received; and

(d) by when it is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) The Government of West Bengal has to modify the Report based on the results of the model study for dependable quantification of the likely siltation in the post-project condition.

Threat to Rail Lines and National Highways by Ganga Erosion

2754. SHRI RAM NARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that railway lines and national highways in the Murshidabad area were being threatened by the Ganga erosion ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) steps to be taken by the Government to protect these which are now being threatened by erosion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways have executed the necessary works at an expenditure of about Rs. 2 crores. In addition, the Ministry of Railways have agreed to share expenditure upto Rs. 2.54 crores, as a one-time measure, when the Government of West Bengal take up the bank protection works in the vulnerable reaches at Sankopara, Durgapur and Bajitpur.

Threat to Feeder Canal between the Ganga and the Bhagirathi

2755. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the feeder canal between the Ganga and the Bhagirathi had been threatened ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and